

REMARKS

Claims 1-22, 24-32, and 35-44 are now pending in the above-captioned application.

* Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated allowable subject matter.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1-22 were indicated allowable. Claims 31-32 and 42-43 were indicated allowable if rewritten into independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the previous amendment, claims 31-32 and 42-43 have been placed into independent form and independent claims 23 and 33 cancelled. By the present amendment, claim 33 has been cancelled. **Thus, claims 1-22, 31-32 and 42-43 are now clearly in condition for allowance.**

Dependent claims 24-30 have been amended to be dependent on allowed claim 31. Dependent claims 35-41 and 44 have been amended to be dependent on allowed claim 42. Thus, applicant submits that claims 24-30, 35-41 and 44 are also in condition for allowance.

It appears that claim 33 was not cancelled in the prior amendment due to a clerical error. This amendment cancels claim 33, placing the application in condition for allowance.

Thus, all of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance.

Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejected claims in a Continuation application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Applicant has made every effort to supply the Examiner with every reference cited in all co-pending and issued applications filed by the Assignee of the present application. Applicant notes that most, if not all, of these applications were examined by the present Examiner.

Thus, applicant presumes the Examiner is familiar with all of these references.

The burden of supplying copies of these references is excessive, and no doubt a burden to the Office and the Examiner, who by now must have several copies of each. If it would be possible, applicant would like to submit the Information Disclosure Statements without hard copies of references already in the Examiner's possession. In the alternative, applicant has accumulated many of these references in electronic format and can provide the Examiner with a CD-ROM with copies of references in MS-WORD and Adobe .pdf format.

Applicant is using best efforts to insure that all references are available for the Examiner's review and consideration.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's efforts in considering the references cited in the previously submitted IDS. However, no page 2 of the form PTO-1449 from the Previous IDS was returned with the Office Action. It appears this page may have been lost in the mail or by the PTO. A new page 2 is submitted herewith. It would be appreciated if the Examiner could indicate that these references have been considered and made of record.

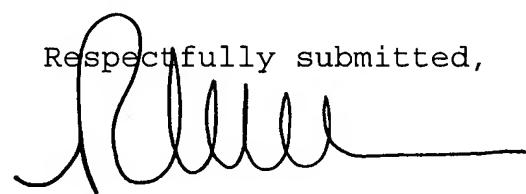
CONCLUSION

Rejected claims 23, 33, and 34 have been cancelled without prejudice towards presentation in a Continuation Application. The remaining claims were either indicated allowable, have been rewritten into independent form as suggested by the Examiner, or have been amended to be depended from allowed claims.

Thus, all pending claims 1-22, 24-32, and 35-44 are now in condition for allowance.

An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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